

From: Thomas Treder
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 5:16pm
Subject: I oppose the Department of Justice's proposed

I oppose the Department of Justice's proposed settlement with Microsoft. None of the proposed actions appear adequate to prevent Microsoft from entering any new market it chooses, then utilizing a combination of exclusionary licensing, predatory pricing, and all but unlimited marketing capital to force the incumbents into extinction.

Microsoft continues to employ the tactics with which it decimated Netscape. Against RealPlayer, Microsoft has integrated Windows Media Player. To drive a wedge into the game console market, XBox is sold below cost.

While the short-term benefit to the consumer is reduced cost of the individual commodity, the overall cost to the consumer and to society is huge; Operating System (Windows) and Applications (Office) priced far higher than any hopeful rival of equal or greater quality (Linux/StarOffice); reluctance of new players to enter the market; laughable security (ILoveYou, Nimda, Code Red), and ultimately a hegemony imposed with Microsoft the gatekeeper of all society's information flow and transactions (pending success of ".Net").

Even Judge Jackson's remedies seemed no guarantee that Microsoft couldn't find a circumvention; however, that the current Department of Justice has volunteered a remedy weaker than one to which Microsoft had already acquiesced is at best difficult to understand, and at worst smells of malfeasance.

Judge Jackson's remedies should be imposed upon Microsoft without delay.

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